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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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TAGS: PINR, PROP, KS, US, MARR

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS -- MORNING SESSION
APRIL 20

1. OPENING STATEMENT BY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRASER SUMMARIZED TESTIMONY OF AMBASSADOR PORTER AND FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL MITCHELL GIVEN IN MARCH HEARINGS REGARDING LOBBYING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ROK. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS FRASER, DERWINSKI, ROSENTHAL, AND GOODLING ATTENDED. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI ATTENDED AS OBSERVER. QUESTIONS TO FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER EXPLORED REASONS THE ROKG FELT COMPELLED TO TRY TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN OPINION, HOW MUCH AND WHEN DID USG KNOW ABOUT SUCH EFFORTS, AND HOW DID USG RESPOND TO THESE REPORTS OF ROK LOBBYING.

2. KISSINGER STATED THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD ROK IN 1969 AND EARLY 70'S HAD AS GOALS THE CONTINUED INDEPENDENCE OF ROK, WHICH WE RECOGNIZED AS BEING IMPORTANT TO JAPAN, AND THE DETERRENCE OF ANY POTENTIAL NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. HE
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ALSO SAID THAT DECISION TO WITHDRAW 20,000 TROOPS IN 1971 MEANT NO CHANGE IN THESE BASIC OBJECTIVES BUT WOULD SERVE TO SHIFT MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE OF ROK TO ALLIED COUNTRIES. THIS DECISION COMBINED WITH CONCURRENT REDUCTION OF U.S. ROLE IN VIETNAM CAUSED DEEP ROK CONCERN

THAT NORTH KOREA AND PRC MIGHT READ U.S. MOVES AS

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SIGNIFYING A U.S. RETREAT FROM ASIA. KISSINGER COULD NOT RECALL IF QUESTION OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL CAME UP IN NIXON'S SAN FRANCISCO MEETING WITH PARK IN 1971 NOR DID HE HAVE COMMENT ON PORTER'S DESCRIPTION OF ATMOSPHERE IN WASHINGTON BEING PERMISSIVE WITH REGARD TO KOREAN LOBBYING EFFORTS AT THAT TIME.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF LOBBYING AND BRIBERY ATTEMPTS KISSINGER REPLIED THAT THE ONLY ONE OF THREE INTELLIGENCE MEMOS FORWARDED TO BOTH HIM AND MITCHELL HE COULD RECALL DEALT WITH ALLEGED PAYMENTS TO A CONGRESSMAN. HE STATED THAT AS A RULE HE READ ONLY MATERIAL THAT REQUIRED ACTION ON THE PART OF THE NSC. HE DID RECALL INFORMING MITCHELL IN 1975 OF CERTAIN LOBBYING EFFORTS THAT HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION WHICH HE BELIEVED JUSTICE WAS UNAWARE OF. HE ALSO DESCRIBED FORMER SECRETARY LAIRD AS PLANNING TO COMPLAIN TO STATE IN EARLY 1975 ABOUT KOREAN LOBBYING IN DOD. UNTIL HABIB BROUGHT BRIBERY ATTEMPTS TO KISSINGER'S ATTENTION IN FEBRUARY 1975 HE HAD ONLY BEEN AWARE OF LOBBYING EFFORTS AND PROCEEDED AT THAT POINT TO BRIEF PRESIDENT NIXON ON KOREAN ACTIVITIES. BECAUSE OF SENSI-TIVITY OF SOURCES THIS AND ANY NEW INFORMATION WAS PASSED ON TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES FOR ACTION AND NO PUBLIC STATEMENT WAS MADE. CHRISTOPHER

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